



## MINUTES OF THE WASHOE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

November 4, 2020

Washoe County Senior Center, Reno, Nevada 89512

Zoom Webinar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78207944707?pwd=ZkgvSHFXeUszMkNXRXNaWHd3R1F1dz09>

1. **\*Call To Order** - Meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chair- Dr. Larry Weiss.
2. **\*Roll Call** – Dr. Larry Weiss asked for the roll call; Sandra Vasquez took the roll. There was a quorum present via Zoom meeting.

### WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

#### PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Dr. Larry Weiss  
James Doyle (3:03pm)  
Mark Miranda  
Linda Hardie

Rick Sorensen  
Donna Clontz  
Sarah Deardorff  
(3:07pm)  
Barbara Korosa

#### ABSENT (EXCUSED\*)

\*Jennifer McMenomy

### WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Abby Willrich  
Steve McBride

Sandra Vasquez  
Herbert Kaplan (DA)

### ADVISOR PRESENT

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**ADVISOR (ABSENT)**  
Victoria Edmondson  
Connie McMullen

3. **\*Public Comment** –  
No public comment.
4. **\*Member Announcements** –  
No member announcements.
5. **Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on November 4, 2020 (For Possible Action)**  
Motion to approve the agenda was made by Donna Clontz and seconded by Mark Miranda.  
Motion passed unanimously.
6. **Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on October 7, 2020 (For Possible Action)**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mark Miranda and seconded by James Doyle.  
Motion passed unanimously.

**7. \*Update and discussion on Washoe County issues and activities relating to seniors – Steve McBride, Division Director**

Steve stated the family and women’s shelter is open at Our Place. The family units are always full and usually have a waitlist. The shelter is used by women of various of ages; there was a substantial amount for senior women that needed to use the shelter. They are looking at an overflow expansion for the shelters.

Donna asked if there are case workers available to offer services, Steve stated yes, there is also a collaboration between RISE, HSA, and a mental health counselor.

Abby stated the wait list for TADS is substantial and they are focusing on the vulnerable of the vulnerable.

Sarah Deardorff connected at 3:07pm.

**8.\*Update on Sparks Senior Citizen Advisory Committee - Donald Abbott**

Donna stated she has been talking with Marsy Kupfersmith and the Board has not been able to meet. Marsy did report that there is a new Sparks police chief and their Board will be having a Zoom meeting to meet the new police chief.

Donald stated they are working on creating a Zoom meeting for their Board.

Donna congratulated Donald.

**9. Update, report, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding age friendly communities sponsored by AARP throughout the county and cities (For Possible Action) – Donna Clontz**

Donna stated she picked up the surveys that Senior Services received. She revised the surveys and saw there were about 33 surveys that said they didn’t know how to access information or that they would like a friendly call. She will be working on putting numbers together, and report back; she is excited that the Board can help create a positive activity and help connect people with services.

**10. Report, discussion, and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners regarding recruiting new Advisory Board Members for District 5 and Alternate (For Possible Action)**

Abby stated the recommendations will be going through the Board of County Commissioners next Tuesday, 11/10. Steve stated people can join the meeting virtually, there is a limited number that can join in person.

**11. Report, discussion, and possible recommendation regarding board members volunteering to make Friendly Visitor Calls on a regular basis to selected Home Delivered Meals clients (For Possible Action)**

Larry stated, he, Donna, Deborah, Danada, and Rick are on the volunteer list. Rick stated a colleague of his would also like to join and make the calls. Donna also stated she has a senior that would like to join in making the calls.

**12. \*Discussion and training regarding board members making Friendly Visitor Calls on a regular basis to Home Delivered Meals clients – Abby Willrich, Human Services Coordinator**

Abby provided a presentation (see attachment). The presentation provides links to resources that can be used. The calls are established to help reduce social isolation. These calls are being

made to strangers; some examples of conversation starters are ‘how are you?’ ‘do you have a pet?’. If during a call something of concern comes up, there is an email that can be used to send inquiries or concerns, there is also the main phone number if someone wants to call. If there is something that needs immediate emergency assistance, call 911. The frequency of calls can be set by the caller and senior so it’s something that works for both. Also, if someone outside of the Board wants to be a caller, they would need to contact Todd Acker to sign up as a volunteer. Rick stated his appreciation for this new service.

Donna asked about Magali being a contact person, Abby stated it’s better to keep it general with a team of staff since someone can be out and this way the person requesting assistance can be helped in a timely manner. Donna stated that from the survey she noticed there were people that said they didn’t know how to contact someone for a friendly call. Mark, Rick, and Deborah stated they can make calls. She is excited about this and believes they will make a difference in senior’s lives. Deborah stated it may be good to record the data from the survey to enhance the survey information and know what is going on.

**13. Report, discussion, possible recommendations and updates on the Advisory Board member’s Shared Issues and Goals for Housing, Advocacy, Communication & Information, Data Planning, Transportation, Nutrition Programs, Social & Recreation, Senior Law, Volunteering, Financing, and Social & Health Services (For Possible Action)**

Rick stated that friendly calls to seniors would fall under social recreation and volunteering.

Donna asked the Board if anyone has attended any meetings, Mark stated he has joined virtual meetings. Sarah stated she was introduced to Senior Planet and it has many activities for seniors; it may be a good resource for seniors.

Linda stated that the Food Bank of Northern Nevada fresh food demand is growing due to COVID-19 and it has turned into a drive through system for most people.

Rick reported that seniors are starting to attend classes in person at TMCC.

Sarah reported that Community Services Agency has the grocery delivery program and Catholic Charities also just started a similar program. Sarah also stated that she had just received 2 new wheelchairs for seniors and the organization that provided them delivered them and set them up; the place to inquire about it is [wheelchairfoundation.org](http://wheelchairfoundation.org).

Larry stated that the Elders Count Report will hopefully be produced next month and should be available online and pdf format.

**14. Report, discussion, and possible recommendations on senior board members to attend ongoing Washoe County public meetings (For Possible Action)**

Mark stated that the County and City meetings have scaled back, and they are just trying to keep above everything and hope they will get back to normal.

**15. Agenda items for the next Board meeting**

Friendly Visitor Calls

**16. \*Public comment –**

No public comment.

**17. Adjournment (For Possible Action)**

Motion to adjourn was made by Rick Sorensen and seconded by Linda Hardie. Motion was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.